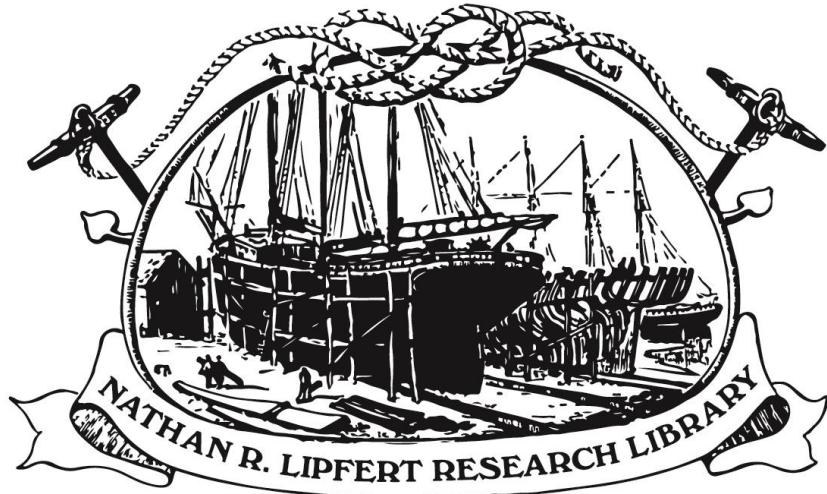


Maine Maritime Museum Library
243 Washington Street
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**Inventory for
Manuscript Collection
MS - 336**

Captain Josiah Wotton Papers

1843-1861

by
Elisabeth Meier
February 2020

$\frac{1}{2}$ box
0.2 linear feet
Accession no. 99.65

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Abstract

Wotton, Josiah

Captain Josiah Wotton Papers

MS-336

1843-1861

½ box

Sea captain from Friendship, Maine.

This collection contains accounts and correspondence from Captain Josiah Wotton's seafaring career. The bulk consists of records from the Waldoboro bark *James Cook*, which Wotton sailed in a variety of transatlantic trades. There are also crew accounts from the brigs *Matamoras* and *Thomas & Edward*, as well as some personal material and probate records for Wotton's estate.

In English.

Museum Purchase

Accession No. 99.65

Finding aid available in repository and online, folder level control.

Preferred Citation: Captain Josiah Wotton Papers (MS-336). Maine Maritime Museum

Added entries—persons:

Wotton, Josiah (1816-1858)

Added entries—corporate bodies (including vessels):

Blanchard, Sherman & Co. (Boston, Ma.)

James Cook (bark)

Matamoras (brig)

Thomas & Edward (brig)

Added entries—key terms:

Harbors—port charges

Merchant seamen

Sailors

Salt trade

Ship captains

Ships—equipment and supplies

Wages

Added entries—places:

Friendship (Me.)

Acquisition

This collection was purchased from Charles Apfelbaum in 1999.

Charles Apfelbaum; Purchase; 1999; 1999.065

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions on this collection.

Physical Condition

The papers are mostly in good condition. Some have light stains, tears, mouse damage, or other signs of wear. All are legible.

Related Materials

MS-407 and PC-191 have material from other branches of the Wotton family of Friendship, but have no direct overlap with the material here.

Historical Note

Josiah Wotton (1816-1858) was a sea captain from Friendship, Maine. He made his career commanding vessels built in the Waldoboro area, often working with shipbuilder and merchant James Cook. He commanded the brig *Thomas & Edward* in the coasting trade, then the brig *Matamoras* in the West Indies trade. His last command was the bark *James Cook*, owned by James Cook and managed by the Boston firm Blanchard, Sherman & Co. Wotton sailed the *James Cook* in a variety of transatlantic routes, carrying mixed cargoes to Europe, South America, the West Indies, New Orleans, New York, and Boston.

Josiah Wotton married Nancy Cook (1824-1911), daughter of Zenas and Lydia (Bradford) Cook, in 1843. They had one daughter, Harriet, born in 1847.

Scope and Content Note

The bulk of this collection consists of records from vessels commanded by Josiah Wotton in the 1840s and 1850s. Most of these are from the bark *James Cook*, including bills for expenses in American, European, and Caribbean ports and summary statements giving an overview of the bark's finances. There are also records from the brigs *Matamoras* and *Thomas & Edward*. These principally consist of receipts for wages paid to crewmembers.

The collection also contains correspondence, much of it between Wotton and business associates like James Cook and Blanchard, Sherman & Co., about shipping and maritime trade. There are some domestic accounts from Josiah Wotton, and documents, including probate inventories, related to the settlement of his estate.

This collection also includes some material without a clear connection to Josiah Wotton. These include a seamen's protection certificate for John F. Paine, of Providence, Rhode Island, and a few bills for John Davis and others of Thomaston, Maine.

Box and Folder List

Box Folder

1 1 Correspondence, incoming, general, 1852-1858
2 incoming, Blanchard, Sherman & Co., 1852-1858
3 outgoing, general, 1852-1853

Accounts:

James Cook (bark)

4 Accounts, summary, with Blanchard, Sherman & Co.
5 with Josiah Wotton
6 Accounts, general, Boston, November 1851, March 1852
7 Santiago de Cuba, May 1852
 Trieste, July 1852
8 Livorno, August-September 1852
9 New York, December 1852-January 1853
10 New Orleans, February 1853
 Boston, March-April 1853
11 Antwerp, May-June 1853
 Cadiz, July 1853
12 Boston, September 1853
 Rio de Janeiro, December 1853
13 Boston, May 1854, September 1854, and undated
14 Charter Parties, 1852-1853
15 Bills of Lading,
16 Crew

Matamoras (brig)

17 Accounts
18 Crew accounts, bound, 1847-1849
19 *Thomas & Edward* (brig), 1844
20 Unidentified vessels
21 Personal, 1843-1858
22 Estate of Josiah Wotton, 1858-1861
23 Seamen's protection, John F. Paine
24 Miscellaneous papers
25 Blank forms